1-1-1895

Report of the President, Bowdoin College 1894-1895

Bowdoin College

REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

1894-95

REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR

1894-95

BRUNSWICK

1895

PRINTED AT JOURNAL OFFICE,

LEWISTON, ME.

REPORT

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

To the Trustees and Overseers of Bowdoin College:

I have the honor to submit the following report for the academic year 1894–95:

Barnabas Freeman, Esq., in term of service the senior member of the Board of Overseers, died on the 18th of December, 1894, in the eighty-first year of his age. Mr. Freeman was a graduate of Colby University in the Class of 1840, and had served on the Board of Overseers since 1857. During all these years his good judgment and generous sympathy have been devoted to the interests of the college; and his influence was always effectively exerted in behalf of the college in the community in which he lived.

No important changes in the Faculty are anticipated this year. Mr. W. B. Mitchell, who has had charge of instruction in rhetoric and elocution, desires leave of absence for the coming year; and it will be necessary to appoint a temporary instructor in this department.

The changes introduced into our course of study last year by the division of the department of history and political economy have been fully justified. The additional courses in history, economics, and English literature which this change made possible have proved to be among the most popular courses which the college offers. No further extension of the course of study is contemplated at present.

A Broader Basis of Admission to College.

The one important step forward which the college ought to take this year is the provision for a broader, not a lower or easier,

basis of admission. Three years ago I recommended "that the Faculty be authorized to offer an alternative for the requirement in Greek." In my report for the year 1891–92 I stated the reasons for the proposed change as follows: "The average number of students fitting for college in each class in the average high school and academy in Maine is less than four. Our present requirements for admission compel these three or four scholars to be made into a class by themselves. They consequently take a disproportionate part of the time of the teachers, and they take an undue proportion of the public money of towns supporting high schools, and of the funds of small academies. That this is not merely speculation is shown conclusively by a table kindly furnished me by Mr. Daniel E. Owen of Thornton Academy, Saco. Six high schools, having an average attendance of one hundred and seven scholars, have an average of two and five-tenths entering college. Yet, though the proportion of students entering college is only two and three-tenths per cent. of the whole number of students, the proportion of time given to the classical course is thirty-two and three-tenths per cent. It is a frequent complaint of principals of schools and academies that the nature of the requirements for admission to college compels them to give to the other departments of the school inferior teachers, inadequate attention, and imperfect equipment.

"Nor is the evil to the school the only evil. A large number of boys do not make up their minds that they wish to enter college until near the end of their course in the high school or academy. Then it is too late. The course of study which they have been pursuing receives no recognition from the college. Every year a considerable proportion of students in these schools and academies are diverted from the colleges into schools of technology or into business, simply because the colleges refuse to recognize the value of the training they have received in modern languages and science as an equivalent for any part of the classical course. Referring to this matter in a widely discussed paper, Mr. F. A. Hill, principal of the Cambridge English High

School, says: 'I wish to emphasize a serious defect in our educational relations, a sharp and unfortunate difference of opinion and practice, a condition hurtful alike to the great majority of our high schools and to the colleges. The great majority of pupils in the two hundred and fifty high schools of Massachusetts are pursuing a course of study that was not framed with the college in view, and so does not connect with it. There it stands, this course of study, the expression of the people's will and the desire of nearly all who aim to go through the high school. For those who aim to go no higher, it is superior to the college preparatory course. During my teaching I have signed in round numbers a thousand diplomas, nine hundred of them for pupils against whom the college doors have been coldly shut. They knew nothing of Greek. It would have required from one to three years' additional work to meet the demands of the college; that was frost enough to nip any delicate, tardy bud of college aspiration. A training suited to a person whose course must cease after four years in the high school ought to be worth following up in the college, should the high school graduate change his mind and desire to go higher. Our colleges should connect with the high school system all along the upper line.'

"These words of a graduate of Bowdoin College who has won a first rank among the teachers of our secondary schools are representative of a wide-spread and fast-growing sentiment throughout the entire educational world. In the interest of our schools and academies, in the interest of boys who do not think of a college course until the inspiration of the academy or high school arouses the desire for higher education, in the interest of liberal education for the largest number of those who are willing to avail themselves of its advantages, in the interest of harmonious and helpful relations between the colleges and the schools, in the interest of educational progress, I recommend that the Faculty be authorized to offer an alternative for the requirement in Greek. Greek will always be one of the foundation stones of a literary education. The most symmetrical education is impossible without it. Wher-

ever Greek has been compelled to stand upon its merits, it has vindicated its ability to maintain itself without the protection of an arbitrary requirement. The question the college is called upon to consider is not whether Greek is essential to the highest education, but whether the college will give as good an education as can be given without preparation in Greek before entering college to those who are so situated that they cannot prepare in Greek without great expense and inconvenience either to themselves, or to the schools which prepare them."

The plan as proposed at that time was not adopted by the Boards. That very year, however, Williams College took precisely this step. At present all the theoretical considerations then urged still hold good; and in addition many pressing practical considerations impel us to the change.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Searles we now have, as then we did not have, facilities for giving advanced instruction in the physical sciences. The principals of the schools in Maine are demanding it now, as they were not then. The recommendations of The Committee of Ten, and the resolution passed by The New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools, indicate unmistakably that the trend of educational thought and practice is in the direction of a broader basis of admission to college. Finally it is a fact that, if we except Yale College, which, inasmuch as it has the Sheffield Scientific School connected with it in the same University, is an apparent rather than a real exception, every college in New England to-day offers a four years' course for admission to which Greek is not a requisite, except three colleges in Maine—Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby. Furthermore, the Faculty of the college is in favor of the change now to an extent which it was not three years ago. At a meeting, May 27, 1895, the Faculty passed unanimously the following resolution:—"Resolved, that in the opinion of the Faculty the privileges of the college should be extended to students offering a substitute requirement for Greek."

A step which was urged three years ago in order to keep the

college in the front of educational progress is now absolutely essential to prevent it from falling to the rear. What was possibly justifiable then on the grounds of reasonable conservatism, has now become an obsolete and antiquarian position. What could then be defended as a sectional position, supported by the traditions of New England as against the tendencies of the West, has now become no longer sectional but provincial; and would array Maine in opposition to the progress of the world. Whatever else is done or left undone, this is the main issue to be considered at the next meeting of the Boards.

The Mary Frances Searles Science Building.

In my report for the year 1892–93 I presented a description of this building based on the architect's plans. A brief description of its actual working, prepared chiefly by Professor Robinson, will be of interest to friends who cannot visit it.

The building is complete in every particular and is furnished with the most modern apparatus. There are labor-saving contrivances in every room which greatly facilitate the work. The janitor is a practical machinist. It is, in many respects, better adapted for the work of science teaching than any other hitherto constructed. It was planned after careful examination of other buildings, and with special reference to economical use of space.

The building is really three buildings joined together. There are three separate entrances, as far removed from each other as possible. This prevents the confusion consequent upon classes meeting in going to and from recitations and fixes also the responsibility for the care of different parts. Each professor knows just where his part begins and leaves off. A student cannot wander around all through the building after once entering it. If he enters the chemical door, he can enter only chemical rooms. If he wishes to inspect physical or biological rooms, he must go out of doors and enter the building again. Of course there are ways for the janitor to pass from one to the other without going out, but not for students. The building faces the east and in ground

plan, consists of a long and narrow main part, about 180 feet by 50 with a wing at each end extending to the west, about 50 feet by 40 in size. By such an arrangement excellent light is secured to all the rooms. There are three stories and a well-lighted basement. It is of the substantial Elizabethan style and very attractive.

Let us enter the chemical part first. Immediately to the left we see the office of the professor of chemistry and at the right a coat-room for students' use. The walls have no plaster, the plain bricks standing boldly out; but instead of giving an unfinished look, as one might expect, they give a very business-like and pleasing effect, appropriate to the use of the building. Natural science deals with hard facts. It wants no lath and plaster to shut off its view of nature's walls. But evidently that was not the reason for the lack of plaster here. It was for the purpose of cleanliness. For the same reason the floor is of unglazed tiles, and when we enter the chemical laboratories we find the same floor material used in them.

The main chemical laboratory is a large room containing tables, upon each of which are many nickel-plated curved pipes from which to draw water for cleaning apparatus. There are no sinks or drains in sight; but the sinks are in the form of drawers which can be pulled out when wanted, and closed when not in use. This is a new idea in laboratory construction, and has proved a great success. In the first place the sink takes no space out of the top of the table, and when not in use is entirely out of the way. Secondly, it can be locked when the student has finished his work, and hence the responsibility for its proper care can be fixed upon the one who uses the desk. Even the water pipe can be easily detached, and then nothing but the bare table remains.

The experience of Professor Robinson, who designed the desks, has led him to prefer that all apparatus and chemicals be put away and locked up after each exercise. Hence each desk has two large cupboards and four drawers, all of which lock. There are a number of other little conveniences and novelties, such as

trays for holding bottles, plates set into the table into which rods screw for holding filtering and ignition rings. The tops of the tables are made of white glazed tiles, which experience shows to be on the whole the best for chemical work.

All along the walls on three sides of this laboratory are hoods where noxious fumes can be generated without danger to the experimenter. In this respect no chemical laboratory, in America at least, is so well equipped. The room will accommodate sixty students, and there is room for that number to work at the hoods at the same time. The ventilation of the hoods and room has been well planned. By simply pressing a button a large fan, in a duct in the ventilating stack, sucks out the noxious vapors so rapidly that the air of the room can be changed in a very few moments. Gas and electric lights hang very conveniently over each desk. Opening out of this room at one corner is the quantitative chemical laboratory, and convenient to both is the stock room, with its order table and attendant's desk.

From the quantitative laboratory also opens out the balance room, and from this the library, and from this the private laboratory of the professor of chemistry. The rooms are arranged so that one man can oversee students in each laboratory, and if necessary look out for delivery of apparatus from the stock room, and that, too, by taking very few steps. To add to this convenience, speaking tubes and electric bells are placed where needed.

The lecture room is on the floor above, to which an easy flight of stairs, mostly iron, leads. We find a large room, of the same size, indeed, as the largest laboratory below, but with seats placed upon a series of terraces sharply inclined from front to rear. The seats, one hundred and seventeen in number, are strongly made of ash, and with broad arms for taking notes. The lecture table is covered with white tiles, excepting at one end, where the corner of a pneumatic trough is seen, and a section in the middle where a small cherry table, two by three feet on top, slides in upon castors. This is to facilitate the movement of apparatus to and from the stock-room, which opens out at one

corner. Behind the lecture table is a blackboard, a frame for displaying charts and a curtain for use with the stereopticon. Gas, water, oxygen and hydrogen, and electricity can be conveniently used upon the table. At the back of the room is a stereopticon table which has the instrument constantly ready for use upon it. Shutters make it possible to darken the room at any time. Here also we see arrangements for lighting, both with gas and electricity, and are shown, not only the button which lights and extinguishes the electricity, but an ingenious electrical device by which all the gas in the room can be simultaneously lighted or extinguished. The lecture room is over the qualitative laboratory and of the same size; that is, both occupy a wing of the building. Over the quantitative laboratory is a laboratory similarly fitted up but smaller, containing twenty-five desks instead of forty. This is for work in organic chemistry, and is connected with a balance room and private room for the professor as before. Corresponding to the office below, is a study, with toilet-room opening out of it. This is used for conferences with those in advanced courses, as well as for a study.

This completes the rooms of the professor of chemistry and mineralogy, except that there are in the basement, an assay room, a gas-analysis room, a battery room, and a workshop.

The rooms of the professor of physics and astronomy are in the south end of the building. The arrangement of rooms is similar to that in the chemical end, but the fittings of them are entirely different. In the large general laboratory, occupying the whole ground floor of the south wing, as the chemical laboratory does of the north, a room about fifty-five by forty feet in dimensions, there is a continuous table around the walls supported upon brackets so that walking will cause no vibration, and a number of plain, hard-pine tables in the floor which can be moved if necessary.

The stock room opens at the end of one corner as on the other end. Across the hall is a smaller laboratory and in this are two granite piers with slate tops, built up from the ground below.

The library, office, and private laboratory complete the rooms on this floor. Passing up a staircase, similar to the one described, we find a lecture room, exactly similar, except in minor details, to the one described, an optical room, spectroscopic room, recitation room for a small class, dark room for photography, all conveniently located. We find here also two or three small rooms, called research rooms, designed to be used by students in advanced work, where apparatus can be set up and left so for days or weeks without danger of interference by others. The professor of physics has in the basement also a magnetic room, and a constant temperature room.

The department of biology occupies the whole of the third story, and is reached by the front entrance. At the top of the staircase we enter a hall. Turning first to the right, we enter the biological lecture room. This is a very attractive room, somewhat smaller than those of chemistry and physics, but similarly appointed. Further along the hall is the physiological laboratory with its dissecting table in the center. Around the walls are tables with gas and water supplies, and each has suitable cupboards for keeping the microscope and other necessary apparatus. This room, being high up above the trees, proves admirably adapted to work with the microscope. Retracing our steps through the hall, we pass the door of the office of the professor and then of his private laboratory and library, and enter a large room at the extreme end of the building, which is used for a museum. A room for a biological museum has long been desired. The Cleaveland Cabinet is none too large for the mineral collection, and contains no cases fit for the display and preservation of skeletons of large animals. This want is now met in the room we have just entered. Returning again to the hall, by a short flight of stairs, we ascend to the biological laboratory, a room as large as the large physical lecture room and directly over it. Here are tables, chairs, sinks, and everything necessary to thorough work. A novel and attractive adjunct to this is a green-house where plants and animals can be cultivated under glass for purpose of study.

Over the front entrance, cut in stone, are these words:

MARY FRANCES SEARLES SCIENCE BUILDING.
"NATURE'S LAWS ARE GOD'S THOUGHTS."

In each end of the building there is a brass tablet, bearing the following inscription:

FAMA SEMPER VIRET.

THIS
BUILDING
HAS BEEN ERECTED FOR THE
STUDY
& ADVANCEMENT OF
SCIENCE
IN MEMORY OF
MARY FRANCES
THE WIFE OF
EDWARD F. SEARLES.
A.D. 1894.

HONOR ALIT ARTES.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

Beginning July 9, 1895, and continuing for five weeks, the following courses in Science will be conducted by instructors in Bowdoin College at the Searles Science Building:

(1) A course in Elementary Chemistry.
(2) A course in Advanced Chemistry.
(3) A course in Physics.
(4) A course in Biology.

These courses are designed especially for teachers, but are open to all earnest workers. It is believed that they will be well adapted to the needs of any student of natural science, giving, for example, an excellent introduction to the study of medicine or pharmacy. They will also be valuable to those who, either

as teachers or scholars, are preparing to meet natural science requirements for admission to college. They will consist largely of practical work in the laboratory, and it is doubtful if any college laboratories in the country have superior facilities for this purpose. The fees for the course, paid invariably in advance, are as follows:

For two or three elementary courses, $20.

For a single elementary course, $10.

For advanced chemistry, $15.

Occasional evening lectures on scientific topics of a general nature may be expected from the different instructors. The courses in chemistry will not necessarily be uniform for all, but each student may pursue quantitative analysis, either organic or inorganic, or carry on such special investigation as he may choose.

The courses in chemistry will be under the instruction of Professor Franklin C. Robinson and Warren R. Smith, Ph.D. (University of Chicago).

The courses in Physics will cover the subjects of Mechanics, Heat, Light, and Electricity. Lectures will occasionally be given upon the above general topics, but the work will mainly consist of quantitative experiments in the laboratory.

The laboratories are equipped with sets of apparatus sufficient to enable twenty students to work at the same experiment at once, and with every convenience for the best work. The course will be conducted by Professor Charles C. Hutchins.

The course in Biology is primarily designed for those who teach Zoölogy or Physiology in the schools, but can also be taken by those who wish an introduction to the science. Some of the important types of animals will be studied by which a general knowledge of the animal kingdom may be obtained. Special attention will be given to methods of study, particularly in the use of the microscope. The work will be largely in the laboratory, and only such lectures will be given as may be necessary for the proper understanding of laboratory methods. This course will be conducted by Professor Leslie A. Lee.

The Caleb Strong Whitman Collection of Minerals.

The college has recently come into possession, by gift from the heirs, of the large collection of minerals made by the late Dr. Caleb Strong Whitman of Gardiner, Me. It has not yet been thoroughly examined, but consists of more than one thousand specimens, and is undoubtedly the most important addition to our collection since Professor Cleaveland's death. It will be arranged in cases in the Cleaveland Cabinet as rapidly as possible, and known as the Dr. Caleb Strong Whitman collection.

The Art Collections.

The recently issued catalogue of the college art collections contains an historical account of this part of our equipment and a detailed description of all objects of art now in our possession. The Misses Walker have manifested their continued interest by the gift of a very rare and beautifully decorated vase of Greek manufacture from the period of the Parthenon, or shortly afterwards. They have donated also various choice specimens of both old and modern Japanese and Chinese ivory carving, as well as valuable pieces of jade of the rarer kinds. Only a careful perusal of the catalogue of the objects in the Sophia Walker Gallery, all of which have been contributed by the Misses Walker, can convey an adequate impression of the degree of our indebtedness to these benefactresses.

Through their hands has been received from E. P. Warren, Esq., of Lewes, Sussex, England, a silver coin of Syracuse, dating from the time of Agathocles, 317–310 B.C. It is in fine condition, and is very useful as an original specimen, showing the unexcelled attainments of the ancients in this branch of art.

A member of the Class of 1866 has presented to the college a painting to be placed in one of the three still vacant panels on the southern wall of the Chapel. It is greatly to be desired that this generous example should be followed and that the unfinished decoration of the Chapel, which is of untold influence on the daily life of our students, should be no longer delayed.

Of especial interest to the college has been the addition of another portrait to our collection in Memorial Hall, namely, that of a distinguished member of the Class of 1825, ex-Senator J. W. Bradbury. The college cherishes a just pride in its membership of officers and alumni from the date of its foundation, and values highly such memorials as the portrait referred to. There are yet lacking numerous portraits, including those of two ex-Presidents of the college and of many others who have in the past rendered to the institution faithful and distinguished services, and whom the college delights to honor.

The Need of a Recitation Hall.

I desire to call the attention of the friends of the college to the following representation made by the professors in the literary departments of the college.

The undersigned instructors in the departments of Latin, English, History and Political Science, German, Greek, Political Economy and Sociology, and Modern Languages, would respectfully call to your attention the following need of the college in their fields of work. They desire thus not only to do what they regard as a duty to the institution, which has long suffered for the lack of the facilities hoped for, but also to put on record these statements as, in a certain measure, a self-justification. The labor of imparting instruction in the spirit of the modern teacher implies the use of lecture and seminary rooms properly lighted, ventilated, and heated, and adapted to special needs, such as the exhibition of maps, charts, and illustrative matter. The seminary rooms corresponding to the laboratories of the scientist should be equipped with limited collections of standard reference books and, temporarily, with the principal editions of the works of any period under examination.

Without stating unnecessary arguments, it is perhaps not superfluous to note that it is as impossible for the college teacher of language and literature to do his work unsupported as for the teacher of science to instruct effectively without proper

lecture room and laboratory. If this work were merely to lecture to students whose attention was confined for the period strictly to their note-books, the surroundings could be to some degree ignored; if hearing recitations alone from assigned texts were the task, any room with due seating capacity would suffice. The instruction which we give at present in the college is in our judgment imparted under serious difficulties, which a lecture hall with proper apparatus would remove. Such a hall, built of brick and affording eight to ten rooms for lecture and seminary purposes, need not be an expensive structure to erect. It would be of immediate and constant usefulness to a large percentage of the members of the college. Other institutions of similar grade with this college are provided almost without exception with modern lecture and seminary rooms such as are needed here now.

Henry L. Chapman,	Henry Johnson,
H. C. Emery,	William MacDonald,
George T. Files,	Wilmot B. Mitchell,
William A. Houghton,	F. E. Woodruff.

The introduction of the elective system, and the spirit of the times render it no longer either possible or desirable to protect the literary side of the college in competition with the scientific. Each must stand or fall upon its merits. Free and fair competition is all that either side can ask. The scientific departments of the college now have unsurpassed facilities. The department of mathematics also has three connected rooms, with every feature of size, shape, heat, light, ventilation, and blackboard space especially adapted to its purpose. The literary departments remain in poorly ventilated and meagerly appointed rooms; and are destitute of those aids to instruction which are as essential to modern instruction in language and literature as are laboratories to modern instruction in science.

The Needs of the Library.

I also call the attention of the Trustees and Overseers to the needs of the library, as presented in the appended report of the

librarian. The present appropriation for the purchase of books is inadequate. The provision for the growth of the library, and the protection of the more valuable books against fire, is an imperative necessity. It should be met at once; since the risk and the waste of labor incurred by delay is greater than the interest on the five or six thousand dollars which is required to make the south wing fire-proof, and to provide permanent shelf room for the additions to the library as fast as received.

The Need of an Athletic Field.

There is urgent need of an athletic field. Of the nine colleges which compete at Worcester, Bowdoin is the only one without a running track. Foot-ball and base-ball are also feeling the need of a suitable athletic field. The foot-ball field on the delta is ten yards too short, and the pine trunks and roots at the east end of the field add an unnecessary element of danger to the game. The field on the delta is needed for the practice of the second eleven and the class teams.

Base-ball is quite as badly off as foot-ball. The undergrowth of pine has shortened the field, so that a long hit to right field or center is likely to be a home run.

Again, our new elective system renders such an arrangement of recitation hours necessary that, except on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when games are usually going on, it is impossible to get nines together for practicing until four o'clock in the afternoon; and then we have only one field.

A quarter-mile track, built of clay and cinders, with the space enclosed fitted to be used for base-ball and foot-ball, would be of the greatest benefit to the athletic interests of the college.

The cost of building an athletic field, exclusive of the cost of land, has been estimated as follows:

Quarter-mile track, built of clay and cinders, . .	$700
Preparing land inside track for base-ball and foot-ball,	300
Fence around the field, ...	500
Grand stand, ...	300
Total, ...	$1,800

Other Needs of the College.

Appleton Hall requires immediate and thorough renovation. The grading of the campus, made necessary by the new buildings, should be completed as soon as possible. The smooth lawn, with its broad walks of white sand, in front of the Searles Building, is a revelation of the possibilities of the campus. The fence around the college grounds should be removed; or else replaced by one that is unobtrusive. The need of a common dining-hall, with a reading-room connected, increases with the growth of the college. In this way more effectively than in any other we can reduce the expenses of the poorer students. Board could be graded according to the expensiveness of the room, as in a hotel: or there could be a substantial but inexpensive bill of fare, to which those who desired greater variety could add by extra orders. The reduction of the necessary expenses of poor students, and that not exclusively by charity, is an absolute necessity if, with the progress in the standards of living among the wealthy, we are still to retain that most valuable and sturdy element of the college community—the poor boy from the humble home who works his own way. Scholarships yielding an income of from two to three hundred dollars, to be assigned in return for services rendered, is another way in which this problem may be satisfactorily met.

The Need of Increased Endowment.

The great and pressing need of the college is increase of its general productive funds. In order to keep pace with the rapid improvement in methods of instruction and the growing demand for increased range of subjects and freedom of choice, we have strained every resource to the one end of strengthening our course of study. In this we have been successful. Every man who graduates to-day feels satisfied both with the range and extent of subjects he has had an opportunity to study, and with the manner in which they have been taught. This is the center and core of the college.

If it is weak, narrow, pretentious, or unreal here, no ancient reputation or external embellishments can make good the defect. As long as it is sound and solid here, we can put up with vexatious annoyances and cramping limitations in external things. As a result of this policy of strengthening the course of study we are hampered and cramped in every other respect. We cannot give the buildings and grounds the care that they require. We cannot help needy students to the extent we should desire. We cannot buy books and apparatus commensurate with our requirements. We cannot pay the salaries our professors ought to have; or provide them with the assistance which is essential to relieve them from excessive drudgery and detail, and afford time and opportunity for advanced study and instruction.

We have made every cent of income effective in the work of instruction; and this year for the first time in many years we have gone considerably beyond our income. Lines of desirable advance present themselves at every point. To go back is impossible. We must have an additional endowment; and we must have it at once.

Progress of the College Within the Past Decade.

As this is the tenth year of my connection with the college, it is a fitting time to review the progress which, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors and the progressive times in which our lot has fallen, the college has made during this period.

Our Faculty has grown from 11 to 17. The students have increased from 113 to 229. The courses of study, taking a course given four times a week for one term as a unit, have increased from 68 to 90. The elective principle has been extended from one-sixth to two-thirds of the course. The library has increased from 35,000 to 55,000 volumes; its circulation from 3,800 to 6,100; and the number of hours it is open each week from 24 to 60. One building has been thoroughly renovated; memorial tablets have been placed in Memorial Hall;

an organ has been placed in the chapel; and extensive additions have been made to our art collections. Four new buildings have been erected at a cost of about $350,000. The productive funds of the college, including funds for scholarships and special purposes, have increased from $350,000 to $550,000.

WILLIAM DEWITT HYDE.

BRUNSWICK, ME., June 1, 1895.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 1, 1895.

To the Visiting Committee:

Gentlemen,—The number of volumes now in the library, inclusive of 3,600 books belonging to the Medical School, is 55,169. The accessions for the past twelve months have been 2,039. Of these, 694 were purchased at an average cost of $1.72; 145 were obtained by binding periodicals and pamphlets, 19 at the expense of the Department of Biology, 6 by exchange of duplicates, and 1,135 were presented by various donors. These gifts exceed in number, as well as in value, those of any previous year in the history of the library with but two exceptions. Among the more notable, mentioned in order of their reception, are the following: Bound volumes of the Boston Daily Advertiser from Mrs. Lucy S. Dodge of Cambridge, Mass.; a set of the Collections of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Michigan from Hon. Alpheus Felch, LL.D., Class of 1827, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; upwards of 100 volumes from the Longfellow homestead in Portland, presented by Mrs. Anne Longfellow Pierce; 37 valuable books on art from the Misses Walker, for reference use in the Walker Art Building; over 100 recently published books from George Haven Putnam, M.A., of New York City; a large number of medical and other periodicals, of bound pamphlets and annotated historical works relating to this state obtained, through the kind services of Ernest B.

Young, Class of 1892, from several sources; the writings of Charles Sumner in fifteen volumes, from Hon. Edward L. Pierce of Milton, Mass.; the Tripitaka in 39 volumes from his Majesty, the King of Siam; and, most important of all, a collection of upwards of 300 volumes selected from the library of the late Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, LL.D., and presented by Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., Esq.

Among the purchases of the year may be mentioned a set of the Dublin Review; 36 volumes of the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London; Handwörterbuch der Staatswissenschaften in six volumes; Lesser's Atlas der gerichtlichen Medicin; and 100 volumes of recent standard German literature. It will be noted that the purchases of the year are less than those of any of the preceding five years. This is the first, but unfortunately not the only result of

Cutting Down the Appropriation

one-third. In 1892 the librarian reported as the result of eight years of experience that $1,500 was the smallest annual appropriation that could insure the normal growth of the library. That sum was appropriated for two successive years. But in 1894, the centennial year, with the college income $5,000 greater than before, the appropriation for books was reduced to $1,000, the very same amount which was appropriated for the same object in 1803. It is hard to believe that this large reduction in so important an appropriation resulted from the belief that those of previous years had been excessive. It is equally hard to infer that it was for lack of money, since appropriations for other departments were considerably larger than in 1892. Unless a return is made to the former appropriation the Bowdoin library will not be able to longer maintain the position it has held for a century as the largest collection of books in the state. Four other libraries in Maine are now able to spend a larger amount each year upon new books. Without the state there is no college,

with which we would care to compare ourselves, that does not have an income from two to twenty-fold as great as our own.

The estimate placed upon the relative importance of the library in other institutions will be seen from the following, taken from recent annual reports. President Dwight of Yale says: "Every section of the institution, whether larger or smaller, must suffer injury if the library is arrested in its development. Every professor, and, directly or indirectly, every student is helped by its steady growth. This is more truly the fact at the present time than ever before." President Andrews of Brown, speaking of the needs of his institution, calls for ten gifts of one hundred thousand dollars each, and the second of these he would apply to the library, though it already possesses book funds of $60,000. President Carter of Williams calls attention with approval to the annual expenditure upon the library of one-tenth the income of the institution.

That an annual appropriation of $1,500 for the purchase of books is reasonable becomes evident, when it is remembered that for several years the librarian has endeavored to hold himself ready to make purchases to the amount of $100 for each of the fifteen departments of instruction, and that the gentlemen in charge of these have as frequently recommended for purchase twice that amount, as they have failed to use their quota. It is inevitable, moreover, that a considerable part of the appropriation should be spent upon periodicals and binding, charges which are constantly increasing. The proper amount of the annual appropriation may also be viewed in the following light. Consider the collection as worth $75,000. Its annual depreciation in value, from use, unavoidable injury, and the issue of improved editions of the works it contains, can hardly be estimated at less than two per cent. Can the college afford to rely upon gifts to maintain the present efficiency of so important a factor in the work of instruction?

A New Book Fund.

It gives me great satisfaction to announce the generous gift of $1,000 from George Sullivan Bowdoin, Esq., of New York City for the maintenance and increase of a collection of Huguenot literature. This is to include everything relating to the Huguenot emigration to this country, and incidentally the history of the Huguenots in France, and the parts their descendants have played in other countries. The gift is notable as the first increase of our book funds during the last four years, and especially as connecting with the college as a benefactor, a descendant of the distinguished statesman for whom it was named. With the valuable volumes received from the private library of another descendant of Governor Bowdoin, the library will soon have upon its shelves a special collection of no little value and interest, illustrating to succeeding generations of students the wide-spread influence exerted by the religious body with which its first patron was proud to claim connection.

Circulation.

The total number of volumes loaned has been 6,090, a slight advance over that of last year. The number of those who avail themselves of the privilege of using Banister Hall during the evening seems to be steadily increasing. On Monday evenings during the last half year the librarian has met there a small group of students for conversation upon books of the day and kindred subjects.

Expenditures.

The itemized bills on file at the Treasurer's office are roughly classified in the following statement, to show the character of the expenditures and the sources of the library's income :

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Appropriation,	$1,000	Books,	$1,199
Bond Fund,	410	Binding,	253
Sibley Fund,	153	Periodicals,	183
General Library Fund,	148	Transportation,	88
Smyth Fund,	80	Library Supplies,	173
Ayer Fund,	45		
Sherman Fund,	50		$1,896
Sale of duplicates,	60		
	$1,896		

College Publications.

A not inconsiderable portion of my time and attention, as well as that of my assistants, has been given in the past year to the publication and distribution of the books and pamphlets printed by the college in connection with the celebration of its centennial and the dedication of the two new buildings. It seems fitting, therefore, to make brief mention of these.

The "General Catalogue of Bowdoin College and the Medical School of Maine, 1794–1894, including a historical sketch of the institution during its first century," was printed in the last academic year, but distributed mainly in this. Its total cost, including illustrations, binding of 1,300 copies, and the postage or express on 1,050 copies, was $1,600. There has been received from sales to individuals $870. One hundred and eighty copies have been presented to public libraries. The value to the library of the 950 copies remaining, of which over one-fourth are bound, and of the cuts and dies used in the manufacture of the book, may be conservatively estimated at the amount the college has expended, namely, $730.

Of the "Addresses and Poem on the Occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Bowdoin College, June 27 and 28, 1894," 1,000 copies were printed.

Two hundred of these were bound in cloth and distributed among officers, benefactors, and guests of the college on that occasion. One hundred copies were also bound with the General Catalogue, making what is called, from the special title-page prefixed, the Memorial volume. The greater part of the remainder of the edition has been distributed in pamphlet form to all those who have expressed a desire for it, circulars offering it having been mailed to the alumni.

Four hundred and fifty copies of an "Address delivered at Bowdoin College upon the opening of the Walker Art Building, June 7, 1894, by Martin Brimmer," were distributed from the library to officers and guests of the college on that occasion, and to public libraries.

Seven hundred copies of the "Addresses at the Dedication of the Mary Frances Searles Science Building, Bowdoin College, September 20, 1894," were distributed in the same manner as the preceding pamphlet; copies were sent also to most of the alumni engaged in teaching. As in previous years, the greater part of the edition of the annual catalogue, 2,500 copies, and of the annual report of the President, 1,000 copies, have been mailed from the library.

The Future of the Library.

Sincerely believing that the future efficiency of the library depends almost entirely upon the answers given to the recommendations of this year, I venture to make a somewhat extended statement of the second and the more important of them. No library can fulfill its function unless its books are properly shelved. You are asked to decide whether this fundamental need will be met in case of our library.

A brief account of previous recommendations upon this subject and of the action of the various Visiting Committees and of the Boards during the past few years, is essential to a clear understanding of the present situation. In 1882, my predecessor asked for one hundred and fifty feet of new shelv-

ing. The request was not granted, and the suggestion made that he remove to a room, then unoccupied, the less used volumes, and thus make place for the new books. This course was pursued as far as practicable. By 1884 every available nook had been occupied, and the treasurer from the general appropriation for repairs had about 350 feet of new shelving placed in the South Wing and in Banister Hall. This shelving could be reached only by the use of a long ladder, and the former policy of changing the position of the older books to make room for the new was necessarily continued. The rapid increase in the growth of the library now became a disturbing factor; from 400 volumes in 1882, the annual accessions had risen to 1,400 volumes in 1886. It was no longer possible to provide room for the new books in the manner just described. In accordance with the recommendation in my report of 1886 and the approval of the Boards, the somewhat cumbersome alcoves which were moved to the South Wing along with the libraries of the Athenæan and Peucinian Societies in 1880, were replaced by the inexpensive cases that now stand in that room. The shelving within reach of the floor was increased by fully 500 feet, and the very moderate expense was met without a special appropriation. The breathing space, so to speak, which the library thus gained, was soon lost by the continued increase in its rate of growth. Accessions of over 1,700 volumes in 1887, showed that 2,000 rather than 1,500 new books each year would have to be provided for in the early future. In 1888 the need of additional shelf room was already felt, and in my report of that year I urged the making of the North Wing into a fire-proof stack room. The visiting committee, through Hon. Joseph Titcomb, who was chosen a sub-committee for the purpose, considered the matter, and requested me to submit definite plans and estimates the following year. The plan then submitted was the same as that now proposed for the South Wing, with this difference: the iron shelving was

of a less approved pattern than that now recommended. It could not be set up again, in another building, with economy, but, on the other hand, cost nearly $1,800 less. In a word the Boards were recommended in 1889 to render the North Wing a fire-proof library room, with a capacity of 40,000 volumes at an expense of $4,000. They chose to follow the alternative suggestion which gave us the present substantial cases of wood with a capacity of 15,000 at a cost, including incidental changes and repairs, of $850. A special appropriation was made for this purpose of $600. While the additional shelving was sufficient for 15,000 volumes, the net gain was fully one-third less, since four large cases in Banister Hall were necessarily removed in order to accommodate the pieces of statuary, formerly in the North Wing, and to supply the additional table-room demanded by the increase in the reference use of the library.

This addition, in 1889, of a new room to the library, necessitated a general re-arrangement of the books in the two other rooms, and brought vividly to the attention of the librarian, the excessive cost in time and labor to the librarian, and the great inconvenience to all frequenters of the library, resulting from frequent changes in the location of books. Foreseeing the necessity of another re-arrangement in the future, I carefully prepared a plan which should render this the last that would be needed as long as the present building can be used for a library. This plan was given in detail on pages 21, 22, and 23 of the annual report of the President for the academic year 1892–93. Without repeating these details, it is enough to say that the plan called for the ultimate expenditure of about $10,000, and promised an increase of the capacity of the building to 80,000 volumes and an arrangement of the collection that would not need to be disturbed for fifteen years.

In accordance with the recommendations of that plan, the Boards have already appropriated $800; and the changes

it proposed for the years 1893 and 1894 have been carried out to the great advantage and convenience of the library. The increase in shelving which these changes have afforded has been largely taken up by the re-arrangement of alcoves previously so crowded as to cause the loss and misplacement of books, and by the removal from the galleries of books in history and sociology which instructors in those departments felt should be made more accessible. We now enter upon the new year with a total shelving within reach from the floor of 7,000 feet, sufficient for the location of 56,000 volumes. We have 55,000 and our annual growth is upwards of 2,000 volumes.

The situation is a critical one for the library, because the further carrying out of the plan of 1893, which is the only way to meet economically the inevitable need of shelving, requires the expenditure, either this year or the next, of a larger sum than can be spared from the income of a single year. This difficulty can be met by dividing the cost of improvements among the years which are to be benefited by them. If either the comparatively small amount which the college has spent in the past upon this object, or the annual expense which the care of a new building would involve be considered, an appropriation of $1,000 for each of the next ten years cannot appear excessive. This would not only permit the institution to advance the $7,200 which ought to be expended within two years, but also to receive six per cent. interest on the amount thus advanced from college funds. I should be the last one to propose the use of income before it is received, were there any other way out of the dilemma. A similar policy, moreover, has already been pursued by the college in the case of the gymnasium, and a few years since Harvard College withdrew $90,000 from its unrestricted funds for the enlargement of its library accommodations.

Surely, if our friends give us annually books worth $2,000, the college can afford to provide the needed shelving at an

expenditure of less than one-half of what it receives. In round numbers 20,000 volumes have been added to the library during the last ten years. We are morally certain that an equal number will be added during the next decade. To provide for this collection in a separate building, if we may judge from the experience of other institutions, would cost at least $40,000. Is the college too poor to set aside one-fifth of this sum for the suitable accommodation of this same number of volumes in a building already erected and partially equipped for this purpose?

The Improvements Desired.

In the North Wing a plate-glass floor should be placed over the present cases; a similar series of cases erected upon this, and the wall space thus made available, should be shelved. The estimated cost is $1,200, and 1,300 feet of shelving will be gained. It is necessary, however, that the increase in shelving in this room should be accompanied by a refitting of the South Wing, both on account of the symmetrical arrangement of the library, and on account of the great danger from fire, if all of the library rooms are finished in wood. The ease with which the South Wing can be made absolutely fire-proof is remarkable. The thick, stone walls of the main building, if the present furring is removed, are an absolute protection on three sides. A fire-proof floor, consisting of steel beams and hollow tile arches, with a wood flooring imbedded in concrete, will do away with danger from the cellar, where the heating apparatus of the building is placed, and at the same time furnish a proper foundation for the book-stack. A double brick wall with the proper air space at the east end, and a metallic ceiling, will complete the protection against fire. The cost of these improvements on the building itself will not, it is believed, exceed $2,000. The cost of erecting in this room a steel book-stack, capable of accommodating 40,000 volumes, will be $4,000.

An obvious advantage of thus making a fire-proof apartment is the saving in insurance. The visiting committee of 1882 recommended an insurance of $60,000 upon the chapel and its contents. The contents are hardly less valuable to-day, and books worth $50,000 could and would be placed in this fire-proof room. The insurance charges for a single decade would equal the amount expended on the building.

I have planned, on my own responsibility, to exhibit to you in Banister Hall one case of improved steel shelving, illustrating the stack with which I hope the South Wing may be fitted up. Its convenience and advantages can be better seen from a personal examination than from any printed description. One feature, however, must be mentioned, for without that I should surely not advocate the expenditure of this large sum of money. These cases can be taken down and set up again in a new building with little expense and with no injury to them or to the room. Their advent at this time I should regard as the first and a very practical step towards the long-recognized need of a new building, with the equipments and facilities required for modern library work. Such a building cannot come to us too speedily, and the shelving now recommended for the South Wing would find abundant place in some one of its rooms.

I conclude a report already too long by recommending as necessary to the maintenance of the present efficiency of the library, first, that the annual appropriation for books be made $1,500; and second, that the college treasurer be authorized to make, before January 1, 1897, the improvements referred to above, which provide accommodation for the growth of the library during the next ten years, and that the cost of the same be defrayed by the appropriation of $1,000 during each of those years.

GEO. T. LITTLE.

BRUNSWICK, June 11, 1895.